The STORY OF the Holy Prophet MUHAMMAD

Peace and blessings of Allah be on him

30 STORIES FOR 30 NIGHTS

HUMERA MALIK

The Story of the Holy Prophet Muhammad

peace and blessings of Allah be on him

GREEN KEY PRESS

The Story of the Holy Prophet Muhammad
(Peace and blessings of Allah be on him)

Ramadan Classics: 30 Stories for 30 Nights

Written by Humera Malik

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For Rasheed and Amalina

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Publisher's Note

The Story of the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa] is our first book in the Ramadan Classics series. These books may be read at any pace, but have been written over the course of 30 chapters, one for each day during a typical Islamic month of Ramadan. There is a special 31st chapter to be read on Eid day. There are study questions for each chapter, which can be found at the back of the book, and used by families to discuss the lessons learned together, or teachers to test reading comprehension.

Salutations are recited out of respect when mentioning the names of prophets and holy personages. Salutations for companions are added once they accept Islam, so as not to give away to the young reader initially what a person ultimately decides with respect to the invitation to Islam. These salutations have been abbreviated and inserted into the text where applicable. Readers are urged to recite the full salutations for the following abbreviations:

sa *Sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam,* i.e., 'Peace and blessings of Allah be on him', is written after the name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa].

as *'Alaihis-salaam,* meaning 'May peace be on him, is written after the names of all other prophets.

ra *Radiyallaahu 'anhu/'anhaa,* meaning 'May Allah be pleased with him/her', is written after the names of the companions of the prophets.

Chapter 1
A Very Special Child

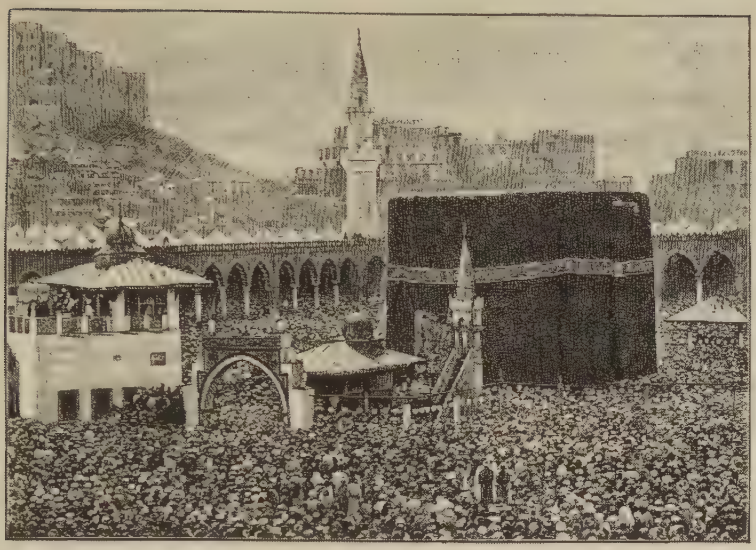
More than 1,400 years ago, a very special child was born in the desert of Arabia. His mother's name was Aminah, and his father's name was Abdullah. Before his birth, an angel came to his mother and told her what to name her son: his name would be Muhammad, meaning "praiseworthy." And so, in 570 CE, Muhammad[sa] was born in the city of Mecca. It was a large town but it was difficult to grow many plants or foods. When Muhammad[sa] was born, people belonged to tribes. A tribe is made up of a group of families related to one another that support each other. Within these tribes are clans that are smaller family groups. Muhammad's[sa] family belonged to the tribe of the Quraish, and to the Banu Hashim clan. The Quraish were powerful and wealthy because they arranged for caravans to come and sell supplies to the Meccans, and this brought money and business to their city.

Sadly, Muhammad's[sa] father died before he was born. So Muhammad[sa] lived with his mother, who remained under the care of his paternal grandfather, Abdul Muttalib. Aminah's family lived in a city called Yathrib. Once, when he was about six years old, his mother took him there to spend time with her family. Travelling between cities was very difficult in those days and this journey lasted a few days. Aminah became ill on this journey and passed away. Now, Muhammad[sa] was a young child without a father or a mother. But he had a very loving grandfather who looked after him for two years

until he passed away from old age. Then, Muhammad's[sa] eldest uncle, Abu Talib, looked after him.

Young Muhammad[sa] was thoughtful and kind and caring. He played like other children but was never unruly. He did not hurt other kids or say bad things. He always listened to his elders. He spoke well but was not overly talkative. He had friends and family who loved him and he loved them. Still, perhaps because his own mother and father had passed away, he was alone in a way, unique. He would observe things and think about them. From a very early age, he would also think a great deal about God.

Chapter 2
The Khaana Ka'bah



Thousands of years before Muhammad[sa] was born, God had sent another prophet to this land, known as Abraham[as]. During his time, the people had begun worshipping idols, so Abraham[as] came with the message that there is only one God. Prophet Abraham[as] brought his wife Hagar[ra] and son Ishmael[as] to the Becca Valley, which contained the ancient city of Mecca. On the command of God, he left the two of them there, even though it was a harsh desert with no means to survive. Ishmael[as] was just a baby and he began to cry for water. Hagar[ra] was a loving mother who did not know what to do, so

she began to pray to Allah, and ran back and forth from the hills of Safa and Marwah in search of water. She did this many times but she found no water. When she returned, worried for her young son, she saw that where he had been kicking his heels he had uncovered an underground spring, which would come to be known as Zam Zam. This was a great miracle of Allah, and through the discovery of this water, eventually Mecca became a great city in Arabia.

In Mecca, there was an ancient shrine that had been built for the worship of God, but it had become rundown. Ishmael was now a young man. Abraham[as] and Ishmael[as], together, re-built this shrine, which is called the Khaana Ka'bah, where his followers could worship Allah. Many years passed between Abraham[as] and Muhammad[sa]. And well before Muhammad[sa] was born, the Arabs had stopped believing in One God and instead they began worshipping idols again. They made statues of people that they considered honorable and they filled the Khaana Ka'bah with these idols. The noblest families were given the responsibility of guarding the Ka'bah. Because the Quraish were so powerful, a member of their tribe was given this honor, and at one time it was given to Muhammad's[sa] grandfather.

Chapter 3
Haleemah & Barakah

It used to be a tradition for young children to be raised in their early years by women in a village away from the city. The reason for this was that the villages were not as polluted and dirty, so the children enjoyed excellent health. Also, the Arabic spoken in the villages was of the best quality, clear, and precise, so the children would learn to speak very well. When Muhammad[sa] was very young, even while his mother was still alive, he spent a number of years living with a wet-nurse named Haleemah. Haleemah also looked after another boy whose name was Abdullah.

One day, Muhammad[sa] and Abdullah were playing alone outside. Suddenly, two men dressed in white arrived. They took hold of Muhammad[sa] and laid him on the ground. Abdullah became scared and ran to get Haleemah. When he told Haleemah what was happening, she rushed to Muhammad[sa], but by the time she got there, Muhammad[sa] was alone, looking pale and frightened. Haleemah asked him what had happened and he explained that the two men had opened his chest and were looking for something inside him. When they found it, they threw it out.

The two men they saw were in fact angels, which is why it did not hurt Muhammad[sa] when they opened his chest. They reached into his chest to clean his heart by removing any envy and weakness, and they replaced it with compassion and mercy. One of the angels was named Gabriel.

Haleemah did not know that the two men were angels, so she became worried about Muhammad's[sa] safety. She decided to take Muhammad[sa] back to his mother, and told Aminah what occurred, and expressed concern that something bad may have happened to Muhammad[sa]. But Aminah was not worried because she knew her child was very special.

Another very important woman in the life of young Muhammad[sa] was Barakah, an Abyssinian slave girl employed by Aminah. (Later in life, she would be known as Ummi Ayman.) Barakah was there when baby Muhammad[sa] was born, and was one of the first people to ever hold him. When Muhammad[sa] returned to Aminah from Haleemah's care, Barakah was also there. She joined mother and son on their journey to Yathrib. And after Aminah passed away, Barakah became a mother-figure for little Muhammad[sa], who was just six years old at the time. In fact, Muhammad[sa] would affectionately call Barakah *Ummi,* meaning, 'My mother.' She cared for him as if he was her very own child, and throughout her life she had a very special bond with him, and he with her. Slaves who had come from Africa were mistreated by most, but Muhammad[sa] was different. Barakah raised him and he loved her and was kind to her, and to all people—no matter where they were from or what their status.

Chapter 4
Marriage to Khadijah

Muhammad[sa] was a special child and he grew up to be an extraordinary young man. By the time he was in his early 20s, he was well known in his town for being truthful and trustworthy. The people called him "as-Siddeeq," which means "the Truthful," and "al-Ameen," which means "the Trustworthy." Once, a lady named Khadijah needed someone to lead her trade caravan to Syria. Khadijah also had excellent morals and people of the town called her "at-Tahirah," meaning "the Pure." She was a wealthy lady whose husband had passed away, which made her a widow. She approached Abu Talib to ask if his honest nephew could accompany her caravan, and both Abu Talib and Muhammad[sa] agreed.

In Arabia back then, men, women, and children from poor families were sold to the wealthier families as slaves. These families would own many slaves and work them very hard. The slaves had to obey everything they were told to do by their owners. Khadijah had a number of slaves and one of them, Maisarah, also travelled with Muhammad[sa] and the caravan. The caravan expedition was a great success and when they returned, Maisarah spoke of how honest and sympathetic Muhammad[sa] had been. Khadijah was so impressed by Muhammad's[sa] character that she sent him a marriage proposal through Abu Talib. Muhammad[sa] knew that Khadijah had excellent morals and therefore agreed to marry her, even though he was only

25 years old. He did not mind that she was 40 years old or a widow – it was her piety that meant the most to him.

Once they were married, Khadijah wanted to give all of her property to Muhammad[sa]. Muhammad[sa] told her that if she were to do this, he would give it all away in charity. But Khadijah had a pious and loving husband whom she trusted fully, and she herself was a kind and caring person, so she gave him all of her property anyway. Muhammad[sa] indeed gave this large amount of money to the poor people in his town who were in great need of help. Khadijah also wanted to give her slaves to Muhammad[sa], but he thought that keeping slaves was cruel, so he freed them all. Among the slaves was a bright and intelligent boy named Zaid. In reality, Zaid came from a free family and he had been sold as a slave by mistake. When Muhammad[sa] offered to free him, he chose not to leave because he felt so loved and cared for in their household. Later, Zaid's father and uncle found out that Zaid was living as a slave in Mecca and rushed there to rescue him. After a long journey, they tracked him down at the home of Muhammad[sa]. They asked Muhammad[sa] that Zaid be freed to return home with them. Muhammad[sa] told them that he gave Zaid full permission to leave with them right away if he so wished. Imagine how happy Zaid might have been to have found his father and uncle after being a slave for most of his life. When Zaid was given this news, he surprised everyone and requested permission to stay in the household of Muhammad[sa] and Khadijah. Truly, they were more like loving parents to him than slave owners. Even his father could see how much young Zaid loved Muhammad[sa], and he agreed. On hearing this, Muhammad[sa] immediately took Zaid to the Ka'bah and announced to everyone present that Zaid was now free and would forever be his adopted son. At a time when slaves were poorly treated and abused, Muhammad[sa] embraced Zaid as his own son and showed him love and affection. The wealthy slave owners

and their slaves all took notice—Muhammad[sa] was truly a unique person with unbounded compassion.

Chapter 5
Rebuilding the Ka'bah

When Muhammad[sa] was in his 30s, the Khaana Ka'bah was damaged in a fire. As the caretakers of the Ka'bah, the Quraish worked to rebuild it over many years. But a dispute broke out between the Quraish families, known as clans, when it came time to place the Black Stone (known as *al-Hajr al-Aswad* in Arabic) in its place. The Black Stone is very precious, as it is one of the materials that was used to rebuild the Ka'bah by Prophet Abraham[as] and his son Ishmael[as]. It is not from this earth, but came as a meteor from the heavens. All of the clans wanted the honor of putting it back in the Ka'bah. They fought over this for many days, until they finally came up with a solution. They decided that the very next person who walked through the gates of the Ka'bah, no matter which clan he belonged to, would get to put the Black Stone in its place. Shortly after this, who walked through the gates but Muhammad[sa] himself. All of the leaders of the clans were pleased to see Muhammad[sa] and called out, "Al-Ameen! Al-Ameen!," meaning, "The Trustworthy! The Trustworthy!" They were happy that this honor went to such a noble young man as Muhammad[sa]. They explained their dispute to Muhammad[sa] and the agreement they had come to. On hearing this, Muhammad[sa] took off his robe and he placed the stone in the center of it. Then he asked the leader of each clan to come forward and hold a part of the robe, raise it together, and carry it to the corner where it would be placed. Then, Muhammad[sa] used his own hands to guide it into position. In this

very wise way, every clan could say that it helped place the heavenly Black Stone back to its rightful place in the Ka'bah! This resolution greatly pleased all of the clans and a grave situation was avoided. It also illustrated the deep wisdom of Muhammad[sa].

Chapter 6
First Revelation

Over the years, Muhammad[sa] became increasingly concerned by the behavior of the people of his town. He knew that God had sent Prophet Abraham[as], his own ancestor, to remind everyone to worship only one God, but it upset Muhammad[sa] to see members of his own family now worshipping idols. He also noted that people were becoming less honest and spoke to each other angrily. This worried Muhammad[sa], so he would spend time alone, meditating, praying to God day and night, and looking for a solution to make the people of his town better. His favorite place to meditate was a small cave near Mount Hira, where he would go for days at a time. Khadijah[ra] would prepare food for him to take along with him so he would not have to return to the town and could pray in solitude.

In Ramadan of 610 CE, when Muhammad[sa] was 40 years old, he retreated to the cave in mount Hira to observe the practice of fasting, as he had done in previous years. One night, as he was in the cave, the same angel from his childhood, Angel Gabriel, visited him again. The angel commanded Muhammad[sa] to read. Muhammad[sa] was shocked; he told the angel he did not know how to read, but the angel repeated twice more, "Read!" Again, Muhammad[sa] said, "I do not know how to read." Finally, Angel Gabriel said, "Read, in the name of your Lord who created, created man from a clot of blood. Read, and your Lord is the most bounteous, who taught by the pen, taught man what he knew not."

THE CAVE OF HIRA

After this incident, Muhammad[sa] rushed home to Khadijah. By the time he arrived, he was pale and shivering. Khadijah covered him with a cloak, and asked him what was the matter. He told her what had happened in the cave. Muhammad[sa] knew that God was telling him to stand up and spread the message that there is only One God. He told Khadijah that he was too weak for this responsibility. But Khadijah knew that Muhammad[sa] was a good man and she had full faith in him. She reminded Muhammad[sa] that he was kind and considerate, he helped the poor, and tried to make the people of his town

better. This was why God had chosen Muhammad[sa] and she reassured him that God Himself would be his Guide. When Muhammad[sa] said God had made him a prophet, Khadijah[ra] accepted his claim immediately and became the first of the believers. Many years ago, Prophet Muhammad[ra] chose to marry Khadijah[ra] for her piety and righteousness, and now, it was these qualities that led her to accept the truth from God. Prophet Muhammad's[sa] adopted son Zaid[ra] and his ten-year-old cousin Ali[ra] were next to hear his message, and, like Khadjiah[ra], they too became believers at once. Those who were closest to him, and knew the kind of person he was, accepted Prophet Muhammad[sa] as truthful, even as he claimed that God has spoken to him.

Chapter 7
Abu Bakr Arrives

The Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa] had a childhood friend named Abu Bakr. He was not in Mecca at the time of Prophet Muhammad's[sa] first revelation. On his return, people started telling him that his friend had gone mad. He immediately went to see Prophet Muhammad[sa]. When they met, Abu Bakr immediately asked him if he had really told people that he had seen an angel who told him to worship only One God. Prophet Muhammad[sa] was worried about what his friend might think and did not want him to rush into a decision. He tried to explain the whole story to his friend, but Abu Bakr cut him off and repeated his question. When Prophet Muhammad[sa] tried to explain once more, Abu Bakr told him he did not need an explanation – he just wanted to know if Prophet Muhammad[sa] had a message from God.

Prophet Muhammad[sa] realized that Abu Bakr was not going to listen to his explanation, so he simply replied to his question and said yes. The people wondered what Abu Bakr would say to this. Even Prophet Muhammad[sa] did not know how Abu Bakr would react. Abu Bakr had not heard anything from Prophet Muhammad[sa] about his claim other than God had given him a message. Upon hearing Prophet Muhammad[sa] say yes, Abu Bakr told him that this was all he needed to hear, and that very instant Abu Bakr also declared his faith in One God.

This act of faith by Abu Bakr[ra] showed that God was already

preparing the way for the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa], and that He would send him helpers from among his own people.

Chapter 8
Secret Meetings of the Believers

Prophet Muhammad[sa] knew that when the Quraish heard his message they would be unhappy. They would not want to believe in one God, because they believed that the idols they worshipped had made them powerful and wealthy.

So, for three years after seeing angel Gabriel in the cave, Prophet Muhammad[sa] would preach his message secretly. He continued to receive revelations from God. Some of these were to be recorded in the Quran. Others were directions to Prophet Muhammad[sa] about what his next steps should be. To begin with, he shared them only with members of his family and his close friends. Slowly, more and more people would hear his message and declare their faith in one God. Many of the early believers were women, slaves, and young people.

The believers and the people who were interested in Muhammad's[sa] message would meet secretly to learn more about it. Sometimes they met at the home of Prophet Muhammad[sa] and sometimes on the outskirts of town. When they decided to accept Islam, they would take an oath, which is a declaration of your beliefs and a promise about how you will behave in the future. In this oath, they would promise that they would believe in, and worship One God, replace bad habits with good deeds, and that they would obey Prophet Muhammad[sa] in every decision that he made.

As Prophet Muhammad[sa] preached secretly, often Muslims did

not know when others had taken the oath. But over time, they were able to tell who else had become a Muslim by the changes in their behavior. The Meccans who accepted Islam stopped doing bad things like lying, using bad language, drinking alcohol, and so on. They also became kinder to people, and, once in a while, a Muslim would see another Meccan find a quiet place to pray in the way Prophet Muhammad[sa] taught. Becoming a Muslim had very good effects that were hard to hide from others.

Chapter 9
Public Preaching

Four years after the first revelation, God commanded the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa] to declare his message openly. When Prophet Muhammad[sa] received this message from God, he gathered the tribes of Mecca and went to the top of Mount Safa. (This was the same Mount Safa that Hagar[ra] ran to in search of water for her son Ishmael[as] thousands of years ago.) Standing atop Mount Safa, Prophet Muhammad[sa] asked the people a question: "If I told you there was a large army on the other side of this mountain, coming to attack you, would you believe me?" All of the people gathered there that day from the various tribes living in Mecca responded together: Yes! They said they would definitely believe him because he had always been truthful. In fact, he was known as "as-Siddeeq," the Truthful. Prophet Muhammad[sa] then told them that they should also believe him when he says there is only One God and that they should worship Him instead of their idols. At this, the tribes all laughed and walked away.

This did not stop Prophet Muhammad[sa] from preaching the message of Allah. Instead, he tried even harder to explain the beliefs of Islam and the most important acts of worship. When Meccans asked him about Islam, he explained that Muslims should believe in the Oneness of God, the Angels, the Books of God, the Prophets, and the Day of Judgement. He explained that Islam consisted of two parts:

(1) upholding the rights of God (*Huqooq-ullaah*), and (2) upholding the rights of His creation (*Huqooq-ul-Insaan*).

The disbelievers did not worship the One God, but rather their own false idols. And they did not give due rights to their fellow humans. In contrast, Prophet Muhammad[sa] was the most compassionate and caring person ever born. He was always quick to share anything he had, or just give it away in charity. And when the month of Ramadan came, he was even more charitable than anyone could imagine. Some of the people began to see how little he had for himself and how much he helped others, and were influenced by his example greatly.

Chapter 10
Warn Your Nearest Kinsmen

Soon after the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa] began preaching publicly, Angel Gabriel brought him a new verse for the Holy Quran: "Warn your nearest kinsmen." This message meant that Prophet Muhammad[sa] needed to tell his relatives to stop worshipping idols.

So, shortly after the incident at Mount Safa, Prophet Muhammad[sa] asked his young cousin Ali[ra] to gather all the members of his family for a feast. Among the relatives invited were Prophet Muhammad's[sa] uncle, Abu Lahab. Abu Lahab strongly disliked Prophet Muhammad's[sa] preaching. So, before Prophet Muhammad[sa] even had a chance to address his relatives, Abu Lahab got them all to leave the gathering.

Prophet Muhammad[sa] was not about to give up. He asked Ali[ra] to arrange for another gathering. This time, Prophet Muhammad[sa] did address them. He warned his relatives that they should worship only One God, and should warn others to do so, too. He also asked who among them would help him in his cause. For a while nobody spoke, but then young Ali[ra] spoke up. Ali[ra] said that though he was one of the youngest people there, he would certainly support Prophet Muhammad[sa]. Again, the other members of his family mocked Prophet Muhammad[sa] and left the gathering.

Prophet Muhammad[sa] recognized that some members of his tribe were bitterly opposed to Islam, but this never stopped him from preaching to them with wisdom. Allah told him that he was

responsible only for delivering the message he had been given – not for making anyone believe. In fact, God also revealed that there was no compulsion in religion. Everyone was free to believe in God however they wished. But the Quraish were not Muslims and they did not believe in the freedom of religion. Soon, they would respond.

Chapter 11
Persecution of the Believers

The people of Mecca, and especially the Holy Prophet Muhammad's[sa] own tribe of the Quraish, were unhappy with the message of Islam. At first, they just mocked Prophet Muhammad[sa] and his followers, and called them mad. But more and more people began believing that there could not be more than One God and that the idols were not gods. Such people began accepting Islam. The chiefs of Mecca began to worry about how Prophet Muhammad's[sa] message would affect their daily lives, and the power they held over the people in their town.

The chiefs of Mecca got together to discuss the issue, and decided to stop Prophet Muhammad[sa] by force. So they began to persecute Prophet Muhammad[sa] and his believers. The disbelievers treated Prophet Muhammad[sa] and his followers with great cruelty. When they saw them in town, they would verbally abuse them, throw things at them, and hit them.

One disciple who was treated very badly was Bilal[ra]. He was a slave from Abyssinia, which is now known as Ethiopia. He first heard about the message of Islam from another early follower, Amaar[ra]. Amaar[ra] told him that in Allah's eyes, everyone was equal. This message was life changing for slaves, who were treated as objects that belonged to someone else. Bilal[ra] was instantly attracted to the message that his life was just as important as his master's and his neighbor's lives. Bilal[ra] quickly accepted Islam.

When Bilal's[ra] master heard that he had accepted Islam, he treated him very cruelly. He would make him lie on the blazing hot sand, and pile large, hot stones on top of him. He wanted to cause Bilal[ra] so much pain that Bilal[ra] would say he no longer believed in One God. But Bilal[ra] would never go back to believing in idols. No matter how much they hurt him, he kept repeating over and over, *"Ahadun Ahad! Ahadun Ahad!",* meaning "God is One! God is One!" Fellow Muslims felt anguish for Bilal[ra], and even the enemies of Islam were amazed by his strong faith.

Some of the early Muslims had earned a lot of wealth from their work. One such Muslim was Uthman bin Affan[ra]. He would often buy Muslim slaves from their masters and then set them free. In the very early days of Islam, men like Uthman[ra] and Abu Bakr[ra] spent almost all of their money for the sake of Islam, and these sacrifices meant far more than the ones that would come later.

Chapter 12
Migration to Abyssinia

The cruelty of the Quraish made living in Mecca very difficult and dangerous for the followers of Islam. The Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa] gathered his followers and instructed some to leave Mecca. He told them that they could live in peace in a land called Abyssinia. At the time, the King of Abyssinia was Ashamah. Prophet Muhammad[sa] knew that the King was intelligent and fair, and that he would let the Muslims live there in peace and practice their religion freely.

At first, only a handful of Muslims had the ability to leave Mecca. If the Quraish knew that the Muslims were leaving for Abyssinia, they would stop them and continue to punish them. So the Muslims had to plan their departure in secret, and they left without even saying goodbye to their close family and friends. It made them sad to be away from their families, but by leaving for other places, they were going to spread the message of Islam.

Soon after they started their journey, the Quraish discovered their plans and became enraged. They set out in pursuit of them, but they were too late. The Muslims were already on a trade ship headed to Abyssinia. The Quraish returned to Mecca, disappointed that they had been unable to stop the Muslims.

When the Muslims reached Abyssinia, they found it to be exactly as Prophet Muhammad[sa] told them it would be. Life there was peaceful and they were free to worship Allah. But soon after, a rumor reached them that the Quraish of Mecca had accepted Islam.

The Muslims were overjoyed and set off to return to their home. Surely it would now be safe to live in Mecca. But once they reached Mecca, they learned that this rumor was false. Now the Muslims had to decide whether to make the long journey back to Abyssinia, or to stay in Mecca, where they may be persecuted once more. In the end, some of them returned to Abyssinia, while others quietly reentered Mecca.

Chapter 13
Quraish Travel to Abyssinia

Over time, Muslims continued to leave Mecca, to live in peace in Abyssinia. Eventually, there were over 100 Muslims in Abyssinia and only a small number in Mecca with the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa]. The fact that so many Muslims had managed to leave Mecca angered the Quraish greatly. The Quraish decided to send a small party to meet the King of Abyssinia and ask him to return the Muslims to Mecca. They prepared expensive gifts for the King and his court, and set off for Abyssinia.

When they reached Abyssinia, they presented their gifts to the King's court and were given the opportunity to speak with King Ashamah. They told the King that the Muslims had abandoned the religion of their ancestors, and that the new religion of Islam would upset the King as well. The King was not an idol-worshipper, but he was a Christian, so the Quraish thought that perhaps he would not like a new religion either. They requested King Ashamah to send the Muslims back to Mecca.

But the King proved to be very just. He told the group of Quraish that the Muslims had come to him for protection, and thus it was only fair that he heard their side of the story as well. The Muslims explained their religion to the King and spoke about their beliefs regarding Jesus[as]. Upon hearing this, the King became very emotional, and told the Quraish that he would not return the Muslims to Mecca. The King saw how deeply the Muslims respected Jesus[as]

and found nothing disagreeable in the faith of Islam or the actions of the Muslims, who lived peacefully in his kingdom. So the Muslims continued to live in Abyssinia in peace, and the Quraish returned to Mecca empty-handed, and angry.

Chapter 14
Two Enemies of Islam

Abu Jahal was one of the biggest enemies of Islam. One day, he approached the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa] and spoke to him in a filthy manner, and said incredibly hurtful things. But Prophet Muhammad[sa] held his tongue and did not respond at all. Prophet Muhammad's[sa] uncle, Hamzah, heard about this from a girl slave and became very upset. Hamzah was not a Muslim, but he was also not an enemy like Abu Jahal. In fact, he loved his nephew dearly, and it hurt him to learn Muhammad[sa] was abused in this manner. Hamzah was big and strong, known far and wide as a brave warrior. He immediately set out in search of Abu Jahal and confronted him. Due to his anger in that moment, Hamzah declared that he too was a Muslim, which shocked Abu Jahal. When Hamzah[ra] returned home and calmed down, he considered what he had done rationally, and decided that it was indeed the right time to stop worshipping idols. So he went to his nephew Muhammad[sa] and took the oath that from now on he was a Muslim and would worship only one God.

Another influential opponent of Islam was Umar bin Khattab. He felt that Islam was dividing the Arabs. Umar was a tall, strong, and thoughtful man, but he had a short temper and was known for badly beating Muslims. Seeing Islam spread through Mecca made him very angry. One day, Umar set out to kill Prophet Muhammad[sa] himself. Along the way, he came across a Meccan who asked him where he was going. Umar told him he was going to kill Prophet Muhammad[sa] in

order to put an end to Islam. The Meccan told him that Umar's own sister Fatimah[ra] and her husband had accepted Prophet Muhammad's[sa] message. Umar was shocked that his own sister would do such a thing. He decided to confront her first. Angrily, he rushed to her home. From outside the house, Umar could hear Fatimah[ra] and her husband Saed[ra] reading passages of the Holy Quran. He became even more enraged, and barged into the house and struck Saed[ra] very hard. Saed[ra] fell to the ground, and Umar stood upon his chest. Fatimah[ra] ran to her husband's help but she also got hurt. When Umar saw that he had accidently hurt his sister, he became upset with himself and stopped what he was doing. What had happened to him? Why had he become so angry that he would hurt his own family? He sat and asked to see the passages they had been reading. Fatimah[ra] said he was unclean and that he should first clean himself with water. So Umar washed his hands and face and calmed down. He was given Surah Taha, chapter 20 of the Holy Quran. When he heard these verses, his heart began to tremble. Verse after verse affected his soul, until he heard: "Verily, I am Allah; there is no God beside Me. So serve Me, and observe Prayer for My remembrance." Umar had heard enough. He stood up, sword at his side, and set off for the house of Prophet Muhammad[sa].

Several Muslims were in Prophet Muhammad's[sa] home when Umar arrived, including the brave Hamzah[ra]. Someone had told them that Umar bin Khattab was approaching and he had his sword with him. Everyone became nervous. Umar was tall and strong and a fierce warrior. Who would be a match for him if he drew his sword? There was loud knocking at the door and Umar told them he had come for Muhammad[sa]. His uncle Hamzah[ra] said he would meet Umar with his own sword, but Prophet Muhammad[sa] told his uncle to stay back. Stepping forward himself, Prophet Muhammad[sa] opened the door and saw Umar taking up the entire doorway. Prophet Muhammad[sa]

asked him directly with confidence why he had come, and Umar replied, "I have come to accept Islam!" The Muslims all began to shout *"Allaahu Akbar! Allaahu Akbar!"*, "Allah is the Greatest!" What a proud day for the Muslims. Umar[ra] had joined Islam.

Although Abu Jahl remained an enemy, Umar[ra] became a devoted Muslim, showing that Allah can open anyone's heart to the truth. But even Abu Jahl's enmity contains a lesson, for it was his persecution of the believers that led Hamzah[ra] to accept Islam. Now that both Umar[ra] and Hamzah[ra] had accepted Islam, the Muslims were able to walk to the Ka'bah in a group and pray out in the open for the first time. Not even the mighty chiefs of Mecca dared to stop them now that these two heroes of Islam had accepted the One God.

Chapter 15
Severe Persecution

The Quraish were frustrated. They kept trying to stop the spread of Islam, but more Meccans were accepting the message of Prophet Muhammad[sa] everyday. The chiefs held a meeting and decided to begin a boycott against the Muslims. They wrote up the rules of the boycott, which included that nobody would partake in buying or selling with the Muslims, and they posted the rules on the Ka'bah. The Muslims were to remain in the valley of Abu Talib during the boycott and there they faced extreme hunger.

As they could not buy anything from the Meccans, the Muslims would wait until the trade caravans arrived and try to buy some food from them. They did not have a lot of money because they were not allowed to sell to the Meccans either, but the Muslims would still try to buy enough food to at least feed their children. When the trade caravans came to Mecca, the Quraish would convince them to raise their prices so much that the Muslims could barely afford to purchase anything.

This cruel boycott lasted three years until Prophet Muhammad[sa] received a revelation from God that the parchment paper on which the boycott was written had been destroyed, except for the word "Allah." When he informed his uncle Abu Talib of this, Abu Talib approached the other chiefs of the Quraish and said that now that the parchment had been destroyed, the boycott should be put to an end. The Quraish checked the parchment and indeed it had been

eaten by insects—all except for the word "Allah." And thus, eventually the boycott came to an end. Abu Talib was the leader of the Banu Hashim clan and protected his nephew, who was also from the Banu Hashim, out of a sense of honor. Not long after the boycott ended, Abu Talib passed away. But that was not the only loss Prophet Muhammad[sa] would suffer. The pious and noble Khadijah[ra], his beloved wife of 25 years, also passed away that year.

Due to the hardships the Muslims faced during the boycott, many now suffered from ill health. But the Muslims remained patient and trusted in Allah. They knew that being good Muslims would mean they would face hardships, but the Quran taught them to be patient and prayerful and that there would be ease after hardship.

Chapter 16
Prophet Muhammad[sa] Goes to Taif

After the boycott was lifted, the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa] decided to visit another city to spread the message of Islam. He chose to travel to Taif, and took Zaid[ra] with him. Taif was a small city about 60 miles from Mecca. It housed the idol Lat, and therefore was considered an important city and another place of pilgrimage.

Prophet Muhammad[sa] spent ten days in Taif and met with many of the chiefs of the city, but none of them were willing to listen to his message. Instead, they mocked him and walked away. Finally, Prophet Muhammad[sa] met Taif's grand chieftain, Abdu Yalail. Not only did Abdu Yalail also reject Prophet Muhammad's[sa] message, he also directed the young people of his city to chase Prophet Muhammad[sa] and Zaid out of Taif. These young men pelted Prophet Muhammad[sa] and Zaid with the rocks and stones of Taif for almost three miles. By the time they left the city, both Prophet Muhammad[sa] and young Zaid were injured and bleeding from where the rocks had hit them. Finally, these boys stopped chasing them and Prophet Muhammad[sa] and Zaid rested under a tree, feeling disappointed. Prophet Muhammad[sa] described this day as one of the most difficult he had faced. Then, suddenly, an angel appeared before him and said:

"God has sent me to you, that if you so command, I may bring, the two mountains of this valley together upon these people and destroy them."

But Prophet Muhammad[sa] immediately responded by saying,

"No, no." He explained that he had faith that, one day, there would be people in the city of Taif who would believe in One God. And therefore, despite the cruelty they showed to Prophet Muhammad[sa], he chose not to have any harm fall upon them. Instead, he prayed for them. The incident at Taif illustrated the unmatched compassion and mercy of the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa].

Chapter 17
Hijrah

Prophet Muhammad[sa] Leaves Mecca for Yathrib

Tribes from many towns would come to Mecca once a year to complete their pilgrimage at the Ka'bah. During this time, Prophet Muhammad[sa] would visit them in their tents, and spread the message of Islam. One year, he met leaders from tribes of Yathrib. They were very impressed by the message and became Muslims. They also promised to return the following year with more people from Yathrib. Indeed, the following year, they brought leaders of some of the most influential tribes, and they also accepted Islam. When they returned to Yathrib, they took the message of Islam with them and many people in Yathrib pledged to worship only One God.

At this time, Prophet Muhammad[sa] also received a revelation from God that he should leave Mecca and travel to Yathrib.

At the next Hajj, 70 men from Yathrib met Prophet Muhammad[sa] on Mount Arafah, just outside of Mecca. Muhammad's[sa] uncle Abbas[ra] gave them great news: Muhammad[sa] was going to migrate to Yathrib! As soon as the Muslims from Yathrib heard this, they vowed they would protect him with their lives. And so, plans for Prophet Muhammad's[sa] departure were laid.

Before he left Mecca, Prophet Muhammad[sa] advised all the other

Muslims to travel to Yathrib. Thus, Prophet Muhammad[sa] was left in Mecca with just his family, Ali, and a few Muslims. When the Quraish saw that Prophet Muhammad[sa] did not have much support left, they vowed to kill him. God informed Prophet Muhammad[sa] that he must leave Mecca immediately, and so, in 622 CE, the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa] set off on the journey to Yathrib. But he did not travel alone. Abu Bakr had been planning to leave for Yathrib for some time, when Prophet Muhammad[sa] asked him if he would like to wait to travel. Abu Bakr understood the loving hint in Prophet Muhammad's[sa] words, and stayed in Mecca, hoping that perhaps he would get to make the migration to Yathrib in the same group as his beloved master. Indeed, when the time came for Prophet Muhammad[sa] to go, he called for Abu Bakr[ra]—but there was no group. Prophet Muhammad[sa] had chosen Abu Bakr[ra] alone to be his travel companion, and the two of them set off together. The Quraish were watching Prophet Muhammad's[sa] home, but they did not notice him leave. In the morning, when they stormed into his home, they found Ali[ra] in his bed! When they realized their mistake, they angrily set off in his pursuit.

Prophet Muhammad[sa] and Abu Bakr[ra] took shelter in a cave inside Mount Thawr. The Quraish searched for them for two days, but they remained safe inside. On the third day, the Meccans came across the cave, but they saw that the opening was fully covered with a spider's web. They did not believe that Prophet Muhammad[sa] was in the cave because the spider's web was not disturbed. They also knew the cave to be a dangerous place, inhabited by snakes. Because of this, they did not look in the cave. But if they had, they would have seen Prophet Muhammad[sa] and Abu Bakr[ra] inside.

After three days in the cave, Prophet Muhammad[sa] and Abu Bakr[ra] emerged and continued their journey. After eight days, they arrived in Yathrib. The people of Yathrib were eagerly anticipating

his arrival and when they saw him approaching they were overjoyed and sang the praises of Allah. In his honor, the city itself was renamed "Medina-tun-Nabi," or "the City of the Prophet," and Medina for short.

Chapter 18
Life in Medina

During the Hijrah, the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa] had stopped to rest in Quba, on the outskirts of Medina. There he built a mosque. This was not the first mosque the Muslims built, but it was the first mosque that Prophet Muhammad[sa] had laid the foundation for. Prophet Muhammad[sa] would return to this mosque at least once a week for the remainder of his time in Medina.

After spending about ten days in Quba, Prophet Muhammad[sa] began his journey into Medina. When he entered Medina, his camel stopped to rest on a spot of grass, and Prophet Muhammad[sa] later purchased this land. Here he built a mosque and living quarters for himself over a seven-month period of time. This mosque would come to be known as "al-Masjid an-Nabawi," or "the Prophet's Mosque," and became the second holiest site in Islam.

Life in Medina was very different from Mecca. The Muslims of Medina were referred to as the *Ansaar,* or Helpers. And they proved to be true helpers to the Muslims of Mecca, who were called *Muhaajireen,* or the Emigrants, meaning they had left their homes in Mecca to live in a new land. The Ansaar of Medina shared their homes, money, and food with the Muhaajireen of Mecca. In fact, Prophet Muhammad[sa] paired every Meccan emigrant with a Medinite helper, and they were to treat each other like brothers. This further increased the love between the Muslims. Before Islam, people of different tribes

did not express such deep and true love for one another. Only belief in Allah enabled them to love one another in this way.

Medina was now considered a Muslim city, though three Jewish tribes lived there peacefully as well. Life was better there, but not without its challenges. The Jewish tribes of Medina did not like this new religion, so the Muslims were still fearful. Prophet Muhammad[sa] wanted everybody to be able to live alongside each other peacefully. Thus, he created a pact between the different tribes and religions of Medina. The pact stated that everybody would have freedom to practice their religion as they pleased, and that when any disagreements arose, everyone should abide by the most just and fair decision, which Prophet Muhammad[sa] would decide upon. They also agreed to work together in case anyone attacked Medina. This showed that Islam laid more importance on the things people have in common with each other than the things that can be used to divide us. It also proved that Islam allows people the freedom to practice any religion.

Chapter 19
Adhaan: The Call to Prayer

In Medina, the Muslims enjoyed the freedom to practice their religion and worship God. By now, Prophet Muhammad[sa] had been commanded by God to establish *Salaah,* the five daily prayers. The Muslims would gather in the mosque to pray at the appointed times. But Prophet Muhammad[sa] wanted a method of waking Muslims from their sleep for prayer, and for gathering them together at the right time throughout the day. So he consulted his companions. One suggested raising a flag. Another recommended using a horn, others said to light a fire or ring a bell. But none of these suggestions were quite right.

Then, one night, a companion of Prophet Muhammad[sa] named Abdullah bin Zaid[ra] had a dream in which a man taught him beautiful words in Arabic to call people to prayer. When he woke up, Abdullah[ra] went to Prophet Muhammad[sa] excitedly and told him about the dream.

Prophet Muhammad[sa] knew this was a true dream and was very pleased. He told Abdullah[ra] to teach the words to Bilal[ra]. So the honor of giving the first Adhaan, calling the people to Islam and to prayer, was given to Bilal[ra], a freed slave who had suffered terrible abuse at the hands of the Quraish.

Bilal[ra] had a loud and beautiful voice. When Bilal[ra] used these words in the next call of prayer, another companion, Umar bin Khattab[ra], heard them for the very first time. He became excited and

took Bilal[RA] with him to meet Prophet Muhammad[SA] and exclaimed that he had also learned these exact words in his dream. Prophet Muhammad[SA] was greatly pleased that God had confirmed the call to prayer through another dear companion. And here are those words:

Allaahu Akbar
Ash-hadu allaa ilaaha illallaah
Ash-hadu anna Muhammadar-Rasoolullaah
Hayya 'alas-Salaah
Hayya 'alal-Falaah
Allaahu Akbar
Laa Ilaaha illallaah[1]

Allah is the Greatest!
I bear witness that there is no god besides Allah!
I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah!
Come to prayer!
Come to prosperity!
Allah is the Greatest!
There is no god besides Allah!

1. When giving the Adhaan, the first line is said four times; the next 5 are said twice, and the final line is said once. There is also a special addition for the morning prayer after the fifth line: *As-Salaatu Khairum-min-an-Naum,* i.e., Salaah is better than sleep.

Chapter 20
The Battle of Badr

The Meccans had been quiet for a few months following the Holy Prophet Muhammad's[sa] migration to Medina. But their anger was continuing to build. Their abuse did not stop people from accepting Islam. The boycott did not work. They even went to Abyssinia but their talking had no effect. So the Quraish decided to attack. The Meccans began building an army to attack and kill the Muslims. Up till now, no matter how much the Quraish beat the Muslims, the Muslims remained patient and peaceful. They did not fight back. But when the Meccans decided to come to Medina to destroy Islam, God commanded Prophet Muhammad[sa] and the Muslims to take up arms to defend themselves and to defend their religion.

God informed Prophet Muhammad[sa] of the approaching attack by the Quraish. So he gathered the Muslims and told them. The Muslims said they were ready to defend Prophet Muhammad[sa] and Islam. So 313 Muslims prepared for battle. The Meccan army was strong and well prepared with weapons, camels, and horses, and numbered about 1,000.

The Muslims prepared for battle and set off for Badr. After a while, they came to a sandy brook in Badr and Prophet Muhammad[sa] settled his army for the night. Many Muslims were worried that the sand would prove problematic in a battle and put them in a situation of weakness. Prophet Muhammad[sa] was also concerned and prayed to God to save the lives of his humble followers. Prophet

BATTLEFIELD OF BADR

Muhammad's[sa] prayers were answered and that night it poured with rain. The Quraish had chosen a grassy area to settle for the night and in the rain, it became very wet and slippery, but the sandy land the Muslims had chosen became hard which made it easier for the soldiers to move. During the night, God had also revealed to Prophet Muhammad[sa] that some important members of the enemy's army would die in this battle. In fact, the names of these people were revealed to Prophet Muhammad[sa]. On the day of the battle, Prophet Muhammad[sa] himself went around inspecting the lines and setting them straight with his walking stick.

Once the battle began, the Muslims fought with all their might. They were interested only in protecting Prophet Muhammad[sa] and protecting Islam—they did not care for their own lives—and this made them fearless. If they were hurt, or even if they died in this battle, they prayed that God would grant them a place in heaven. The Quraish could not match the Muslims, and just as God had revealed, many of Islam's greatest enemies died in this battle, including Abu Jahal. Eventually, the Meccans fled from the battleground, defeated by the Muslims. This became known as the Battle of Badr.

The Battle of Badr showed the Muslims that even when doing the right thing seemed impossible, with Allah's help they could be victorious. This is how only 313 Muslims defeated an army of 1,000 in the Battle of Badr.

Chapter 21
Ahl-ul-Bait:
Prophet Muhammad's[sa] Family

By the time Khadijah[ra] passed away at the age of 65, the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa] had been married to her for half his life. Prophet Muhammad[sa] was filled with grief, but continued to devote himself to serving Allah. After some time, his companions encouraged him to marry again, as a pious wife is a blessing, and the best provision a man could have in this world. He was given two names to consider: The first was Saudah[ra], who was the widow of one of his servants; and the second was Aishah[ra], who was the daughter of Abu Bakr[ra].

Life was very difficult for widows and their children, so Prophet Muhammad[sa] decided to marry Saudah[ra], who was slightly older than Prophet Muhammad[sa]. As a Messenger of Allah, Prophet Muhammad[sa] needed a wife who could fully learn the teachings of Islam and act as a religious teacher for years to come. Thus, he agreed to marry Aishah[ra] as well. Aishah[ra] was a young woman and Prophet Muhammad[sa] would be able train her to take on this role. Prophet Muhammad's[sa] marriage ceremony took place with Saudah[ra] and Aishah[ra] at the same time, but he chose to live only with Saudah[ra], since Aishah[ra] was still young and he wanted to give her time to mature and be prepared for this responsibility. Years later, after the Battle of Badr, Aishah[ra] had matured enough to begin her role as a wife.

During their marriage, Prophet Muhammad[sa] and Khadijah[ra] had both sons and daughters. Unfortunately, all of the boys passed away as babies. But Fatimah[ra], one of his daughters, had grown old enough to marry. Her marriage was arranged to Prophet Muhammad's[sa] cousin, Ali[ra], who had been one of the youngest and earliest Muslims.

Prophet Muhammad[sa] would go on to marry several Muslim women per the command of God. His wives came from different tribes of Arabia, and two were even from Christian and Jewish backgrounds. These marriages helped bring these tribes and communities closer to Islam. For example, Maymunah bint al-Harith[ra] asked Prophet Muhammad[sa] to marry her, and he accepted. She was a member of the Banu Makhzum clan, which had been opposed to Prophet Muhammad[sa] in the past. Their marriage helped bring the clan closer to Islam. Before Islam, women were treated poorly and had few rights. Prophet Muhammad[sa] taught Muslims to respect women and said that the best of the Muslims was the one who treated his wife the best, and Prophet Muhammad[sa] himself was the best husband of all. All Muslims would seek to follow his blessed example in family life.

Chapter 22
Tensions in Medina

For years, the Jews and the Muslims had lived alongside each other happily, by following the rules of the pact they had made. But secretly, some of the Jews were hoping the Muslims would lose the Battle of Badr, so that Islam would stop growing. But when the Muslims returned victorious, the Jews were angry. They tried to cause mischief in Medina. One time, they tried to cause arguments between the Ansaar and Muhaajireen, who had been living like brothers. Some Jews wrote insulting poems about Islam and read them in public.

One day, as Prophet Muhammad[sa] returned from evening prayers with his companions, he was approached by a Jewish woman. She explained she had prepared a dish of meat for him. He accepted it and later in the evening, Prophet Muhammad[sa] and his companions sat down for their meal, where the gifted meat was brought out. Prophet Muhammad[sa] tasted a morsel of the meat and immediately stopped his companions from eating it, explaining that he feared it had been poisoned. Prophet Muhammad[sa] sent for the woman to ask her if she had indeed poisoned the meat. The woman immediately admitted to this, so Prophet Muhammad[sa] asked her why she would do such a thing. At this, the woman explained that her relatives had been killed when they participated in the attack against the Muslims. She said she had wanted to get revenge by killing Prophet Muhammad[sa], but also believed that if he was truly a prophet, then God would save him. She begged Prophet Muhammad[sa] for mercy.

Prophet Muhammad[sa] recognized that the lady was remorseful, and forgave her.

One day, a Muslim woman was shopping in a market in Medina, and some Jews began to abuse her. A Muslim man saw this and he started to defend her. There was a large crowd and a fight broke out in which a Jewish shopkeeper was killed. This led to a number of small skirmishes over the following years between the Muslims and Jews of Medina. But a much larger battle was looming.

Chapter 23
Preparing for Battle

The Meccans had been quiet after their defeat at Badr. But their hatred for Islam was continuing to grow. Whenever they received a profit from a trade caravan, they would save the money to buy animals and weapons to use in future battles. Eventually, the Meccans had collected 50,000 dirhams, which was a lot of money. So they started to prepare for battle, with the intention of sneaking up on the Muslims. But Prophet Muhammad's[sa] uncle Abbas was still living in Mecca and he heard of the Quraish's plan. Although he was not yet a Muslim, he loved his nephew dearly and did not want any harm to come to him. So, he quickly sent a messenger to Medina to warn Prophet Muhammad[sa]. On hearing this news, Prophet Muhammad[sa] asked two of his companions to conduct a census in Medina in order to prepare for battle. These two companions went door to door, collecting the names of Muslims, to find out how many Muslims were in Medina. In the end, they counted a total of 1,500 Muslims.

Once Abu Sufiyan's army was on its way to Medina, Prophet Muhammad[sa] gathered some of his most trusted companions and asked for their advice. In this meeting, Prophet Muhammad[sa] shared with them a dream that he had seen. He told them he had seen a cow being injured, his sword with its tip broken off, and he saw himself putting his hand inside armor, and finally, riding a ram. He explained that he thought this meant that he would lose some of his most beloved companions, and that he himself might be injured. He

also thought the dream meant they should remain in Medina for the battle, and finally, that the commander of the Quraish army would be killed in this battle. Some of the companions thought they would look weak if they waited for the Quraish to come to them in Medina, so they insisted that the Muslim army march towards the Quraish. Although Prophet Muhammad[sa] did not agree with this, he accepted their advice and went to prepare for battle. When the companions saw Prophet Muhammad[sa] dressed for battle, they had a change of heart, and said perhaps it would be better to remain in Medina. But Prophet Muhammad[sa] told them that once the Messenger of Allah was prepared for battle they must march forward. And if they were committed to fight for the good, then God would help them, wherever they were.

Chapter 24
The Battle of Uhud

As the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa] led his army out of Medina, he noticed a group of Jews. They were only pretending to be on the side of the Muslims, but in reality they wanted to see the Quraish defeat them. Prophet Muhammad[sa] knew they had ill intentions so he sent them away. Now there were only 700 Muslims going into battle. The Quraish had an army of 3,000 fighters, 3,000 camels, and 200 horses. The Muslims had only two horses.

When they reached Uhud, the site of the battle, Prophet Muhammad[sa] positioned a group of archers at the top of a hill. There, they had a good view of the land, so they would be able to protect their Muslim brothers in the battle. Prophet Muhammad[sa] instructed them not to move from this spot, even if they saw that the Quraish had been defeated. They were not to move until Prophet Muhammad[sa] came to them and told them they could do so.

Down on the battlefield, the Muslims fought bravely, and the archers at the top of the hill could tell the Meccans were about to retreat, defeated once more. They wanted to be a part of the army that defeated the Quraish, and so they headed down the hill. Their leader reminded them of Prophet Muhammad's[sa] words, but they were insistent that the battle was almost over, so it was safe for them to move.

As the Muslim archers made their way down the hill, the Quraish saw an opportunity to turn the battle in their favor. They

went to the now empty spot at the top of the hill and attacked with all their might. All of a sudden, the Muslims were in great danger, and the Quraish attacked them from every side. Many companions tried to shield their beloved Prophet Muhammad[sa] and in doing so, they became gravely injured. The bravest of them all was Talhah bin Ubaidullah[ra]. When the Meccans started shooting arrows at Prophet Muhammad[sa] and there was nothing left with which to shield him, Talhah[ra] raised his bare hand in front of the blessed face of Allah's Messenger and allowed the arrows to pierce his hand, one after the other, so that no arrows would hit Prophet Muhammad[sa]. In the end, Talhah[ra] would lose his hand. And the Quraish managed to hurt Prophet Muhammad[sa] and he fell to the ground, unconscious.

The Quraish thought they were victorious in killing Prophet Muhammad[sa]. They began to celebrate their victory. When Prophet Muhammad[sa] regained consciousness, he forbade the Muslims from letting the Quraish know he was still alive, in case they came back to attack the tired, injured Muslims. So the Muslims stayed quiet while the Quraish rejoiced at killing Prophet Muhammad[sa]. Then the Quraish praised their idol loudly. At this, Prophet Muhammad[sa] told the Muslims they must defend the name of God. When they did so, the Quraish realized Prophet Muhammad[sa] was still alive, but they did not come back to attack again. They were happy to have weakened the Muslim army and counted this as a victory for themselves.

Although the Muslim army lost the Battle of Uhud, they did not lose faith in God. They saw that the dream that Prophet Muhammad[sa] saw before the battle had come true. Prophet Muhammad's[sa] dear uncle Hamzah[ra] was killed in the battle, he himself was injured, and the commander of the Quraish army was killed at the start of the battle.

After the Battle of Uhud, Prophet Muhammad[sa] returned to Medina to continue his mission. He spent time training the Muslims

of Medina and he continued to spread the message of Islam. At times, he would send a group of his companions to nearby cities to inform them of the message. Many of the tribes who heard the message would accept Islam. His companions would then spend time with them, teaching them more about their new religion.

Chapter 25
Treaty of Hudaibiyah

Six years had passed since the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa] and his companions had left Mecca. They were all longing to see their precious city and to visit the Khaana Ka'bah. The month of pilgrimage was fast approaching. During this month, tribes from all around Arabia would travel to Mecca to walk around the Khaana Ka'bah, and during this holy time, no fighting was allowed.

Prophet Muhammad[sa] saw a dream that he was circling the Khaana Ka'bah with his companions. He thought this was a message from God, telling him that now was the time to return to Mecca and complete the pilgrimage. So Prophet Muhammad[sa] and a group of 1,500 Muslims began the journey to Mecca. They wanted to ensure that the people of Medina knew they were coming in peace, and so along the way they abandoned all their weapons, except a handful of swords. They also sent messengers ahead of them to inform the Quraish that the Muslims were coming in peace, to perform the pilgrimage. But when the Quraish learned that the Muslims were approaching, they sent their own messengers to say that the Muslims would not be allowed to enter the city! Some other Meccans came to these meetings and supported the Muslims. They tried to convince the Meccans to let the Muslims at least circuit the Ka'bah, but again they refused. Finally, they came to an agreement, known as the Treaty of Hudaibiyah.

The agreement stated that for the next 10 years, the two parties were not to fight each other unless the rules of the treaty were broken. And that for each of the next 10 years, the Muslims would be allowed to enter Mecca for a period of three days. During this time, the Meccans would leave to the outskirts of Mecca, to ensure the safety of the Muslims. The treaty also stated that if anyone in Mecca decided to become a Muslim, the chiefs of Mecca would not stop them, but that these new Muslims would not be allowed to go to Medina. As part of the agreement, the Muslims would not be able to visit the Ka'bah on this trip, but would have to come back next year.

And so, the Muslims returned to Medina, with the hope of visiting Mecca in one year's time. Prophet Muhammad[sa] realized that in the dream, God had promised Prophet Muhammad[sa] that he would one day enter Mecca to complete the pilgrimage, but the time for it had not yet arrived. And so, the following year, the Muslims made the journey to Mecca once again. This time, they were able to enter the city peacefully, complete their pilgrimage and leave after three days.

Chapter 26
Treaty Broken

As a result of the Treaty of Hudaibiyah, the tribe of Khuzaa decided to accept Islam. They knew that the Quraish would not hurt them or their families if they became Muslim, since they had agreed not to fight for 10 years. At the same time, another tribe, the Banu Bakr tribe, decided to join the Quraish. The Banu Bakr tribe had a long-standing dispute with the Khuzaa, and they knew that the Khuzaa were feeling very safe due to the treaty. They convinced the Quraish to break the rules of the treaty and attack the Khuzaa tribe when they were unprepared.

After the attack, the Khuzaa sent a group of men to Prophet Muhammad[sa] to tell him that the Treaty of Hudaibiyah had been violated. On hearing this, Prophet Muhammad[sa] was very saddened. He agreed that the Muslims should march to Mecca as the Quraish had broken the treaty. A message was sent to the other Muslim tribes and they also prepared to leave for Mecca. Prophet Muhammad[sa] left Medina and other Muslims joined them along the way, until there was a total of 10,000 Muslims on their way to Mecca! As the sun set, the Muslim army decided to rest, and Prophet Muhammad[sa] instructed all of the camps to light campfires.

When the Meccans learned that the Khuzaa had informed Prophet Muhammad[sa] that they had been attacked, they became worried about an attack by the Muslims. They sent Abu Sufiyan to try and reach an agreement with the Muslims.

When Abu Sufiyan reached the Muslim campgrounds, he was amazed to see the glowing night sky, as a result of the fires the Muslims had built. It was astounding to see what a large following Prophet Muhammad[sa] had achieved only eight years after the Quraish had ran him out of Mecca. Abu Sufiyan also witnessed the Muslims follow Prophet Muhammad[sa] in prayer, prostrating as though one body each time he glorified Allah by saying "Allahu Akbar." These actions had a great effect on Abu Sufiyan. That night, Abu Sufiyan[ra] accepted Islam. Prophet Muhammad[sa] then informed Abu Sufiyan[ra] that the Muslims were not here to attack the people of Mecca. The only way that the Muslims would fight was if the Meccan army chose to attack the Muslims first. Every Meccan who gave up their weapons would be safe. Every Meccan who took sanctuary in their home, at the Ka'bah, or at the home of Abu Sufiyan[ra] would be safe. The people of Mecca were relieved, for they knew that Prophet Muhammad[sa] never lied. If they did not break the peace, they would be safe. But they knew that Mecca would never be the same.

Chapter 27
Fatah Mecca: Prophet Muhammad[sa] and the Muslim Army Enter Mecca

As the Muslims began the final part of their journey into Mecca, the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa] ordered Bilal[ra] to lead them. It was Bilal's[ra] task to announce to the Meccans that Prophet Muhammad[sa] and his army of 10,000 men were coming in peace. Prophet Muhammad[sa] gave Bilal[ra] another honor. He said that any Meccan who sought refuge under the flag of Bilal[ra] would be safe. Now, as a Muslim, Bilal[ra] was a chief in his own right, and the same Meccans who had kept Bilal[ra] as a slave and caused him extreme pain, now sought his protection.

The Meccans, just like Abu Sufyan[ra], were amazed to see how many people from different tribes and different religions and different races had joined Islam. Many years ago, Umar[ra] feared that Islam might divide the people of Mecca. Now, the whole of Arabia was united under one religion! Indeed, the Quraish noticed that many tribes that had bitterly opposed Islam were now marching with Prophet Muhammad[sa]. At this site, many Meccans realized that Prophet Muhammad[sa] was indeed the Messenger of God, and that the idols they had worshipped for so long did not in fact have any power.

The Muslims were also emotional as they entered Mecca. For many of them, Mecca was their home, but they had been forced to

leave it only because of their belief in Islam. One of the Muslims raised a chant, saying today was a day of slaughter. When Abu Sufiyan[ra] heard this, he became concerned and brought it to Prophet Muhammad's[sa] attention. Prophet Muhammad[sa] immediately reassured him and everyone by loudly stating that today was a day of forgiveness. And so, the day the Muslims returned to Mecca was a peaceful day, and without any fighting, God gave them control of the city for all time.

Once in Mecca, Prophet Muhammad[sa] went straight to the Ka'bah to complete seven circuits. The Ka'bah was still full of idols. So as he performed his circuits, Prophet Muhammad[sa] destroyed the idols one by one and with each strike he pronounced: truth has come and falsehood has vanished away. Falsehood does indeed vanish away fast. This was a revelation that Prophet Muhammad[sa] had received when he first left Mecca, on his way to Medina. The Ka'bah was once and for all devoted to the worship of Allah, now and forever.

Chapter 28
Hajj-ul-Widaa:
The Farewell Pilgrimage

The Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa] returned to live in Medina after the Victory at Mecca. By now, the religion of Islam had been firmly established. God had revealed that Islam was built of five pillars:

1. *Kalimah:* The declaration of faith, "There is no god except for Allah; Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah."

2. *Salaah:* The formal prayer offered five times a day.

3. *Zakaah:* Giving a part of our wealth in charity to those who need help at least once a year.

4. *Saum:* Fasting in the Islamic month of Ramadan every year.

5. *Hajj:* Pilgrimage to Mecca once in a lifetime.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa] had completed the first four pillars, and now it was time for the fifth: Hajj. So, two years after the Victory at Mecca, Prophet Muhammad[sa] returned to his city of birth for Hajj. One hundred thousand Muslims accompanied Muhammad[sa] on this pilgrimage!

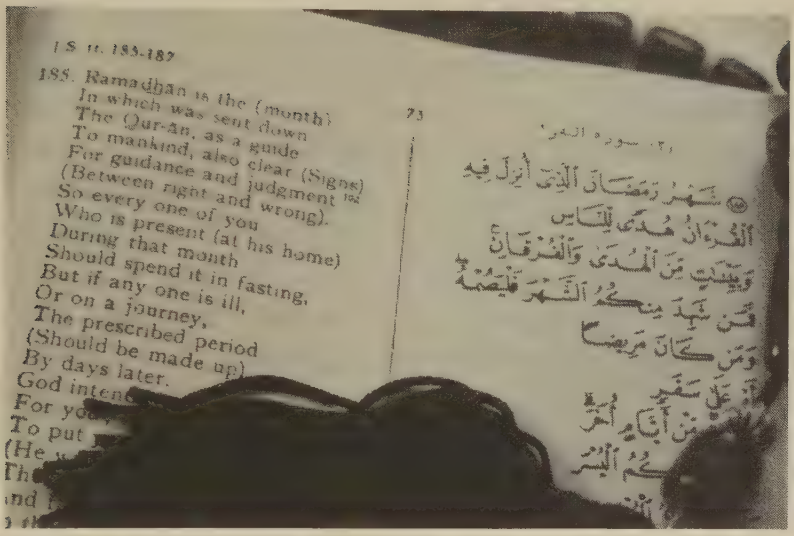
During the pilgrimage, Prophet Muhammad[sa] received the following revelation from God:

> "This day I have perfected your religion for you and completed my favor upon you and have chosen for you Islam as religion."

This meant that Allah's message to Prophet Muhammad[sa] was now complete, and the religion of Islam was fully established.

Before returning to Medina, Prophet Muhammad[sa] addressed all of the Muslims, who had come to Mecca from many different places. Prophet Muhammad[sa] wished to address his companions to draw their attention to some important teachings of Islam. During this address, and in the months that followed, the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa] worked hard on teaching Muslims to have good morals, to treat women and the poor well, and to lead morally good lives. He stressed that all people were equal, and that God valued piety above all else.

Chapter 29
The Holy Quran


185. Ramadhan is the (month)
In which was sent down
The Qur-An, as a guide
To mankind, also clear (Signs)
For guidance and judgment
(Between right and wrong).
So every one of you
Who is present (at his home)
During that month
Should spend it in fasting,
But if any one is ill,
Or on a journey,
The prescribed period
(Should be made up)
By days later.

Allah revealed the Holy Quran to Prophet Muhammad[sa] over a period of 23 years. Prophet Muhammad[sa] would receive a revelation from the angel Gabriel and memorize it perfectly. He would then teach it to his companions, and they, too, would memorize it. The companions also wrote down every single revelation. Every year, in the month of Ramadan, Prophet Muhammad[sa] would recite the Holy Quran to Gabriel. In the most recent Ramadan, Prophet Muhammad[sa] recited the entire Quran to Gabriel twice.

The Holy Quran is the perfect word of God. It contains 114 chapters, each of which is called a *Surah.* The Holy Quran teaches Muslims how to live life as God wishes us to. It was revealed in Arabic, which

is an ancient language that is still alive and in use today. In fact, of all the Books that God revealed to the prophets, the Quran is the only one that has survived word-for-word and in the original language. The past books were changed or lost altogether, and their languages fell into disuse by God's design.

What's more, messengers before Prophet Muhammad[sa] did not give their teachings a name because God did not name their teachings. So people gave their teachings names, often after the prophet who brought them, or a place. For example, the teachings of Moses[as] are called "Judaism," after a place called Judah; "Buddhism" comes from the name Buddha; and the teachings of Jesus Christ[as] are called "Christianity." Only when God revealed the final and perfect religion for all of mankind did He reveal its name: Islam.

The Holy Quran contains all of Islam's perfect teachings and is the most memorized book in history! Prophet Muhammad[sa] taught Muslims that to memorize, recite, and act upon the Holy Quran were sources of great blessings. Thus it is important for every Muslim to learn Arabic, so that they can read and understand the Holy Quran. To help those who have yet to learn Arabic, the Holy Quran has been translated into many languages, including English.

We recite the Quran numerous times a day in every Salaah. In addition, Prophet Muhammad[sa] encouraged Muslims to recite it everyday, and especially during Ramadan. In fact, it is a blessing to recite the entire Holy Quran during the month of Ramadan—just as Prophet Muhammad[sa] did.

Chapter 30
To Him We Return

Nearly all of Arabia had now accepted Islam. Companions went farther and farther to spread the message of Islam and even among those people, from Persia, Egypt, and Syria, people were becoming Muslims. Truly, the victory that Allah had promised in the Holy Quran's chapter *Surah an-Nasr* had come true. When this *Surah* was revealed, Prophet Muhammad[sa] gathered his companions and taught them the chapter. This Surah says that the help of Allah will come and the Muslims will have a great victory. It says that the Muslims will see many people joining Islam. Upon hearing this, all of the Muslims rejoiced, except for Abu Bakr[ra]. He became very sad and began to cry. People did not understand why he would cry at such good news.

Some time later, Prophet Muhammad[sa] became ill. He was not able to lead the Salaah, so he told his companions that Abu Bakr[ra] should lead the Salaah. When Prophet Muhammad[sa] was better, he went to the Mosque and spoke to the Muslims. At this time, he said that Allah had given one of his servants a choice between this life and what He had for him, and this servant had chosen whatever Allah had for him. The Muslims were pleased to hear this story and to see Prophet Muhammad[sa], even if he was still unwell. But when Abu Bakr[ra] heard this story, he began to cry and cry. Again, the people wondered why Abu Bakr[ra] would start crying.

It was because Abu Bakr[ra] knew this was to be Prophet

Muhammad's[sa] last ailment. One day, while at the mosque, he told his companions that he had always tried to be kind to everyone, but if he had ever hurt anybody, even by accident, he would like them to come and tell him, so that he could make amends. The companions were in shock. They knew that Prophet Muhammad[sa] had faced many hardships for them. When he preached the message of Islam to them, the people beat and injured him, but he prayed for their forgiveness. He was blameless and beloved in their eyes.

But one companion, named Sawad al-Ansari[ra], came forward. Sawad[ra] told Prophet Muhammad[sa] that when he was straightening the lines of the Muslims before the Battle of Badr, Prophet Muhammad[sa] had jabbed him with his walking stick. All of the other companions were shocked that Sawad[ra] would make such a complaint, but Prophet Muhammad[sa] eagerly welcomed him to come forward and hit him with his walking stick to get even. Sawad[ra] then said that he was not wearing a shirt at the time, but Prophet Muhammad[sa] was wearing a shirt now. So Prophet Muhammad[sa], who had not been very well, immediately lifted his shirt so that his companion could hit him the same way. Now the companions were so angry they wanted to beat Sawad[ra]. At this, Sawad[ra] walked over to the side of Prophet Muhammad[sa], bent down, and kissed his side. All the companions sat quietly in astonishment, and felt Sawad[ra] had been so clever on that day. Prophet Muhammad[sa] praised Sawad's[ra] love for him and prayed for him.

Shortly after this, while resting at the house of his wife, Aishah[ra], the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa] passed away and returned to his beloved Allah. With tears in their eyes, the Muslims recited a verse from the Holy Quran: *Innaa Lillaahi wa Innaa Ilaihi Raaji'oon,* meaning, "To Allah we belong and to Him we return."

The Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa] established the worship of One God, brought the Holy Quran, and taught Muslims how to fulfill

their duties to God and their fellow people. Muslims would continue to look at his example, called *Sunnah,* for all time to come, to learn how to live honest and honorable lives. And they would look to his words, the *Hadith,* to better understand the meaning of Islam. Today, there are Muslims all over the world who love and pray for Prophet Muhammad[sa], an orphan who became the Seal of the Prophets and a Mercy for all of the worlds.

O Allah, bless and prosper Muhammad[sa] and his people the way You blessed and prospered Abraham[as] and his people. You are Praiseworthy and Exalted! *Aameen!*

Eid Day Chapter
Khilaafah

The Second Manifestation of God's Power

After the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa] passed away, the Muslims felt so much grief that they could not think straight. The greatest man to have ever lived, who brought them to Allah, the One God, and taught them the Holy Quran and wisdom, had returned to God. What would they do? The enemies of Islam were overjoyed, thinking that the religion would die out and the old ways would soon return.

It was clear to the Muslims that they needed a leader to guide them and preserve the unity of the Muslim *Ummah,* or nation. It would be this leader's duty to look after the wellbeing of the Muslims, and to make sure they were abiding by the teachings of Islam in their daily lives. This leader of Muslims would be known as the *Khalifah,* or Successor.

The Muslims were emotional and concerned after the Prophet Muhammad[sa] passed away, and this led to certain tensions. The Ansaar felt that the Khalifah of Islam should be from among them, as they had welcomed Prophet Muhammad[sa] with open arms and defended him in many battles. They convened a meeting where they were about to choose a Khalifah from amongst themselves. But when the Muhaajireen heard about this, Abu Bakr[ra], Umar[ra], and Abu

Ubaidah[ra] went to speak with them. They explained that for Islam to flourish, the Khalifah should be from among the Quraish, as they were the custodians of the Ka'bah, and held most influence among the Arabs. Abu Bakr[ra] explained that this was not a selfish interest, but in fact they were doing it for the welfare of Islam. To prove his point, Abu Bakr[ra] said that he did not desire the position of Khalifah for himself, and that the Muslims should choose between Umar[ra] and Abu Ubaidah[ra] to lead them. Prophet Muhammad[sa] had said that every Ummah has an *Ameen,* or Protector, and that Abu Ubaidah[ra] was the Ameen of the Muslim Ummah. Surely he or Umar[ra], whose contributions to Islam were very great, would make a good Khalifah.

On hearing this, Umar[ra] said that Abu Bakr[ra] was the most excellent of the Muslims; he had been one of the first to accept Islam, he had been with Prophet Muhammad[sa] in the cave, and Prophet Muhammad[sa] had appointed Abu Bakr[ra] to lead the Muslims in prayer when he was ill. Indeed, Prophet Muhammad[sa] gave him the title of "as-Siddeeq," or the Truthful, for recognizing the truth of Islam and abiding by it faithfully himself. Because of all this, Umar[ra] offered his loyalty to Abu Bakr[ra], and Abu Ubaidah[ra] did the same. When the Ansaar saw the two Meccans choose Abu Bakr[ra] to be their Khalifah, they also pledged their allegiance to Abu Bakr[ra]. And so, Abu Bakr[ra] became the first Khalifah of the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa]. The Muslims who had been fearful of what may happen to Islam were now in peace, for they had a leader in Abu Bakr[ra], the Khalifah.

Allah bestowed His grace upon the Muslims by giving them the blessing of *Khilaafah,* or Leadership by Succession. It would be their responsibility to obey the Khalifah and pray for him, so that they could preserve this second manifestation of God's Power (the first being Prophethood itself). Khilaafah is yet another sign of the truth of Prophet Muhammad[sa], the Seal of the Prophets and the Mercy for Mankind. And this is his story.

May Allah bless the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa], the Best of Creation, and his family and companions, and those who follow his way. *Aameen!*

Study Questions

CHAPTER 1:

1. What is the name of Muhammad's parents?
2. What do you imagine could be some challenges a young orphan would face?
3. Why was the Quraish tribe powerful and wealthy?

CHAPTER 2:

1. How was Zam Zam discovered?
2. What important task did Abraham[as] and Ishmael[as] complete together?
3. What was the state of the Arabs' faith before Muhammad[sa] was born?

CHAPTER 3:

1. Why did Muhammad[sa] live with Haleemah?
2. What did Muhammad[sa] call Barakah?
3. Why is it important to have mother figures in our lives?

CHAPTER 4:

1. Why did Khadijah wish to marry Muhammad[sa]?
2. What are important qualities to look for in your friends?
3. What did Muhammad[sa] do with the property and slaves Khadijah gave to him and what lesson can we learn from this?

CHAPTER 5:

1. What agreement did the clans of the Quraish come to while rebuilding the Ka'bah?
2. Why were the Quraish pleased when Muhammad[sa] arrived?
3. Why do you think Muhammad[sa] asked all the clans to carry the Black Stone in his robe, instead of carrying it just by himself?

CHAPTER 6:

1. Why did Muhammad[sa] spend time at the cave near Mount Hira?
2. What can we do when we feel disheartened or worried?
3. Why did God choose to send Angel Gabriel to Muhammad[sa]?

CHAPTER 7:

1. Who was Abu Bakr[ra]?
2. Why did people tell Abu Bakr[ra] that Prophet Muhammad[sa] had gone mad?
3. Why do you think Abu Bakr[ra] was so quick to accept Muhammad's[sa] message?

CHAPTER 8:

1. Why do you think many of the early believers were women and slaves?
2. What was the oath that Muhammad[sa] took from the early Muslims?
3. How did the early Muslims identify their brothers and sisters in faith?

CHAPTER 9:

1. What did God command Muhammad[sa] to do, four years after the first revelation?
2. What is the historical significance of Mount Safa?
3. Why do you think the Quraish laughed and walked away?

CHAPTER 10:

1. Why do you think Muhammad[sa] continued to share the message of Islam with his family, even when they mocked him?
2. Which relative of Muhammad[sa] was opposed to his message?
3. When Muhammad[sa] preached to his relatives, who said they would support him?

CHAPTER 11:

1. Why were the Quraish unhappy with the message of Islam?
2. How do you think Bilal[ra] felt when he was persecuted?
3. Who was Uthman[ra] and how did he spend his wealth?

CHAPTER 12:

1. Why did the Muslims travel to Abyssinia?
2. How do you think they felt as they left Mecca?
3. Why do you think some Muslims returned to Mecca, even though they knew they may be persecuted once more?

CHAPTER 13:

1. Why did the Quraish go to Abyssinia?
2. Why do you think the Quraish prepared expensive gifts for the King?
3. Was the King of Abyssinia a good leader? Why?

CHAPTER 14:

1. Who was Hamzah[ra]?
2. Why did Umar[ra] initially oppose Islam?
3. What can we learn from Umar[ra] about the effect of the Holy Quran on our souls?

CHAPTER 15:

1. Why do you think the Quraish began a boycott against the Muslims?
2. How long did the boycott last?
3. What can we learn from the early Muslims about patience?

CHAPTER 16:

1. Why was Taif an important city to the Arabs?
2. What was the message from god that the angel gave Prophet Muhammad[sa]?
3. What lesson do we learn from Prophet Muhammad[sa], about how to treat those who are unkind to us?

CHAPTER 17:

1. Why do you think Prophet Muhammad[sa] advised the Muslims to travel to Yathrib before him?
2. Why were the Quraish unable to find Prophet Muhammad[sa] and Abu Bakr[ra]?
3. Who do you think helped Prophet Muhammad[sa] and Abu Bakr[ra] in the cave? And what lesson do we learn from this?

CHAPTER 18:

1. What were the Muslims of Mecca called and what were the Muslims of Medina called?
2. Why did Prophet Muhammad[sa] create a pact between the different people of Medina?
3. How should we treat people who do not share the same beliefs as us?

CHAPTER 19:

1. Why was a call to prayer needed?
2. How were the words for the Adhaan decided upon?
3. What is unique about the morning Adhaan?

CHAPTER 20:

1. When and why did God give Muslims permission to defend themselves by force?
2. How many Muslims were in the Battle of Badr?
3. What lesson do we learn from the battle, about doing the right thing, even when it seems impossible?

CHAPTER 21:

1. Why did Prophet Muhammad[sa] marry Saudah[ra]?
2. Why did Prophet Muhammad[sa] marry Aishah[ra]?
3. What did God desire to accomplish through the marriages of Prophet Muhammad[sa]?

CHAPTER 22:

1. Why were the Jews angry after the Battle of Badr?
2. Why did the Jews try to cause mischief in Medina?
3. What test did the poisoned meat present for Prophet Muhammad[sa]?

CHAPTER 23:

1. How did Prophet Muhammad[sa] learn of the Quraish's plan to attack them?
2. Why did Prophet Muhammad[sa] order two companions to conduct a census of Medina?
3. Do you think the companions should have insisted on meeting the Quraish outside of Medina? Why?

CHAPTER 24:

1. What do we learn from the mistake of the archers?
2. Who was Talhah[ra] and what did he do at the Battle of Uhud?
3. Why did the Muslims not lose faith in God after the Battle of Uhud?

CHAPTER 25:

1. Why did the Muslims travel to Mecca?
2. Do you think the Quraish should have let the Muslims enter Mecca?
3. What was the Treaty of Hudaibiyah?

CHAPTER 26:

1. How was the Treaty of Hudaibiyah broken?
2. Why did Abu Sufiyan[ra] accept Islam?
3. What lesson do we learn from Prophet Muhammad's[sa] peaceful entry into Mecca?

CHAPTER 27:

1. What was Bilal's[ra] task on entering Mecca? How do you think this made him feel?
2. What did Prophet Muhammad[sa] do when he entered Mecca?
3. How did Prophet Muhammad[sa] respond when Abu Sufiyan expressed his concerns to him?

CHAPTER 28:

1. What are the five pillars of Islam?
2. What did God reveal to Prophet Muhammad[sa] during the pilgrimage?
3. What important messages did Prophet Muhammad[sa] share in his final address? Why do you think he chose these topics?

CHAPTER 29:

1. Over how many years was the Holy Quran revealed to Prophet Muhammad?
2. What is special about the Holy Quran?
3. Why do Muslims try to recite the entire Holy Quran during Ramadan?

CHAPTER 30:

1. Who did Prophet Muhammad[sa] choose to lead the prayers when he was unwell?
2. Why did Abu Bakr[ra] become upset when Prophet Muhammad[sa] explained Surah an-Nasr to his companions?
3. Why do you think Sawad[ra] mentioned the incident from the Battle of Badr?

SPECIAL CHAPTER:

1. What is the role of the Khalifah and why is it important?
2. Why did the Muhaajireen believe it was best to select a Khalifa from among the Quraish?
3. Why was Abu Bakr[ra] chosen as the first Khalifah?

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